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## Liberals Crack the Whip on CIA-Chile Issue

By WILLIAM A. RUSHER

The great organs of liberal opinion in America—in the press, on television, and elsewhere—are making a terrible fool-faraw over the leaked revelation that the CIA secretly spent \$8 million in Chile during the period 1970-73 in support of parties, newspapers and unions opposed to the Marxist regime of the late Salvador Allende.

My fellow-columnist Joe Kraft, taking issue with President Ford's defense of the CIA involvement, came through with a particularly spectacular display of journalistic muscle-flexing. Declaring—on what evidence, he didn't say—that the country is "deeply divided" over such activities, Kraft warned bluntly:

"President Ford is going to have to take account of those divisions. He will have to try to understand the other side. Otherwise he will end up, as his two predecessors did, limping out of the White House."

**How's that for cracking the whip? No nonsense there about presidential misdeeds—just the crisp order of a liberal journalist to a President getting out of line: Shape up, or ship out.**

Still, let us try to consider the issue of Chile and the CIA on its merits.

To dispose of a collateral point first, it simply won't do to argue that Congress was deceived about the matter. The CIA's activities are necessarily confidential in large part, and Congress, recognizing this, has long agreed that its operations shall be monitored by a special "Watchdog Committee" composed of supposedly close-mouthed senior members of the House and Senate. This committee had every opportunity to probe the agency's Chilean operations as deeply as it wanted to, and if (as some critics are now charging) it "failed to watch the dog" closely enough, Congress has nobody to blame but itself.

But what about the substantive issue? Was the CIA (or rather the U.S. government, for which it works) simply wrong to meddle in Chilean politics at all?

Note that President Ford, in his recent press conference, forcefully denied that this country played any role whatever in the military coup that ultimately over-

threw Allende. According to Mr. Ford, our intervention was confined to the period before the coup, and consisted solely of helping opposition elements to survive. But is even such support justified? Many liberals, stressing that Allende was legally elected (though he received, in the multi-party contest, fewer votes than Goldwater got in 1964), insist it was not.

One wonders what sort of world they live in. Both the Soviet Union and Red China spend hundreds of millions of dollars every year on clandestine support of friendly politicians, parties, newspapers, unions and other institutions in every non-Communist country on earth. So do all the major nations on our side of the Iron Curtain.

To take only the most spectacular example, there is scarcely a politician in black Africa today who isn't receiving cash payments from at least one foreign power, and frequently from two or more (often, incidentally, including South Africa.) The same is true, in everything but degree, of most of Asia and Latin America.

One may—I do—disapprove of this state of affairs; but no important nation on earth could conceivably protect its legitimate interests in today's world without supporting its foreign friends against their (and its) enemies.

**By seeking to prevent this country from doing so, liberals such as Kraft are simply insuring that Uncle Sam will hereafter climb into the ring with one hand tied securely behind his back.**

On one of the late Nikita Khrushchev's trips to this country, he formally proposed to Allen Dulles, then head of the CIA, that the U.S. and the USSR should, as an economy measure, pool their payments to all the third parties who were taking money from both sides.

Fair enough; but it surely never occurred to Khrushchev that, if he was just patient, one group of influential Americans would start agitating for the United States to abandon its true friends altogether, and leave whole nations to the mercies of the well-financed admirers of the Soviet Union.

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